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Letter dated 23 January 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to you on behalf of the Permanent Representative of France in his capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on children and armed conflict established by resolution 1612 (2005).

At its fourth meeting, on 26 June 2006, the Working Group reviewed the situation of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). On this basis, it adopted a set of conclusions at its fifth meeting, on 6 September 2006, and in particular approved the sending of letters by the President of the Security Council to the authorities of DRC, the Government of Rwanda and the President of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In accordance with the seventh recommendation of the Working Group endorsed by the Security Council (see document S/2006/724), I draw your attention to the need, while re-examining the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) prior to 15 February 2007 in accordance with Security Council resolution 1711 (2006), to preserve and strengthen the framework in place for the protection of children, including MONUC's capacity to protect girls from rape and other forms of gender-based violence.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter on the implementation of conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo published as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-Pierre **Lacroix**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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